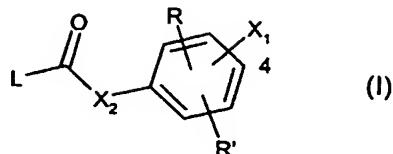
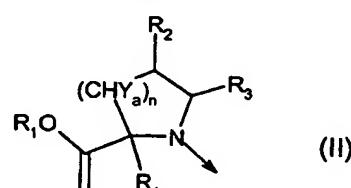


What is claimed is:

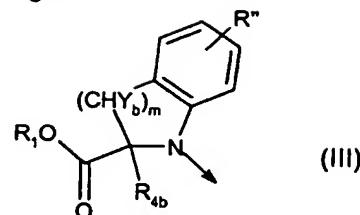
1. A compound of the formula



wherein L is a radical selected from the group consisting of:



and



in which

R₁ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, alkylthio, arylthio or aralkylthio;

R₃ is hydrogen; or

R₂ and R₃ combined are alkylene which together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- to 7-membered ring; or

R₂ and R₃ combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

n is zero or an integer of 1 or 2;

Y_a is hydrogen; or

Y_a and R₂ combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R_{4a} is hydrogen; or

R_{4a} and Y_a combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R'' is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy or halogen;

m is an integer of 1 or 2;

Y_b is hydrogen;

R_{4b} is hydrogen; or

R_{4b} and Y_b combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R and R' are independently hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

R and R' combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 5- to 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring provided that R and R' are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

$R-C$ and $R'-C$ may independently be replaced by nitrogen;

X_1 is $-Z-(CH_2)_p-Q-W$ wherein

Z is a bond, O, S, S(O) or S(O)₂; or

Z is $-C(O)NR_5-$ in which

R_5 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

p is an integer from 1 to 8;

Q is a bond; or

Q is $-O(CH_2)_r-$ or $-S(CH_2)_r-$ in which

r is zero or an integer from 1 to 8; or

Q is $-O(CH_2)_{1-8}O-$, $-S(CH_2)_{1-8}O-$, $-S(CH_2)_{1-8}S-$ or $-C(O)-$; or

Q is $-C(O)NR_6-$ in which

R_6 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is $-NR_7-$, $-NR_7C(O)-$, $-NR_7C(O)NR_8-$ or $-NR_7C(O)O-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_8 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

W and R_6 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

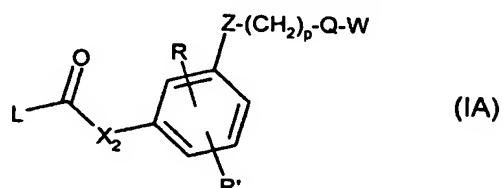
X_2 is $-C(R_9)_2-$, O, S or $-NR_{10}-$ in which

R_9 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

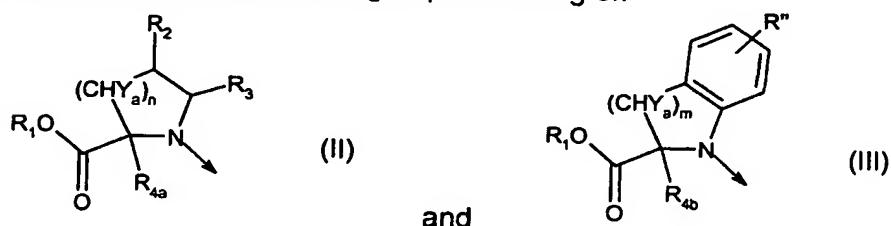
R_{10} is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

provided that W is not 2-methylquinolin-4-yl when Z is O, p is 1, Q is a bond, X₂ is -C(R₉)₂- in which R₉ is hydrogen, and X₁ is located at the 4-position; or W is not 2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethylimidazol-1-yl when Z is a bond, p is 1, Q is a bond, X₂ is -NR₁₀- in which R₁₀ is hydrogen, and X₁ is located at the 4-position;
or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of the formula



wherein L is a radical selected from the group consisting of:



in which

R₁ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl.

R_2 is hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, alkylthio, arylthio or aralkylthio:

R_3 is hydrogen; or

R_2 and R_3 combined are alkylene which together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a fused 5- to 7-membered ring; or

R_2 and R_3 combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached:

n is 1.

Y_a is hydrogen- or

Y_a and R_2 combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached:

R_{43} is hydrogen; or

R_{4a} and Y_a combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R'' is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy or halogen;

m is 1;

Y_b is hydrogen;

R_{4b} is hydrogen; or

R_{4b} and Y_b combined are a bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R and R' are independently hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

R and R' combined together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted fused 5- to 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring provided that R and R' are attached to carbon atoms adjacent to each other; or

Z is a bond, O or S;

p is an integer from 1 to 8;

Q is a bond; or

Q is $-O(CH_2)_r-$ or $-S(CH_2)_r-$ in which

r is zero or an integer from 1 to 8; or

Q is $-C(O)NR_6-$ in which

R_6 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

Q is $-NR_7-, -NR_7C(O)-, -NR_7C(O)NR_8-$ or $-NR_7C(O)O-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

R_8 is hydrogen, alkyl or aralkyl;

W is cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclil, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl; or

W and R_6 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 8- to 12-membered bicyclic ring, which may be optionally substituted or may contain another heteroatom selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

X_2 is $-C(R_9)_2-, O-, S$ or $-NR_{10}-$ in which

R₉ is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R₁₀ is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl;

R₂ and R₃ are hydrogen;

Y_a and Y_b are hydrogen;

R_{4a} and R_{4b} are hydrogen;

R and R' are independently hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

p is an integer from 1 to 5;

Q is a bond; or

Q is -O(CH₂)_r- or -S(CH₂)_r- in which

r is zero or 1; or

Q is -C(O)NR₆- in which

R₆ is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or

Q is -NR₇-, -NR₇C(O)-, -NR₇C(O)NR₈- or -NR₇C(O)O- in which

R₇ is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl;

R₈ is hydrogen or alkyl;

X₂ is -C(R₉)₂-, O, S or -NR₁₀- in which

R₉ is hydrogen or methyl;

R₁₀ is hydrogen;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein

R, R' and R'' are hydrogen;

Q is a bond; or

Q is $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ or $-\text{S}(\text{CH}_2)_r-$ in which

r is zero; or

Q is $-\text{NR}_7-$, $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}_8-$ or $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

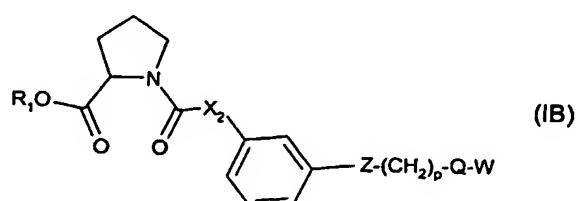
W is cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the asymmetric center in radical L is in the (R) configuration; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound according to claim 4, wherein X_2 is $-\text{C}(\text{R}_9)_2-$ in which R_9 is methyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof.

7. A compound according to claim 4 of the formula



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl;

Z is a bond, O or S;

p is an integer from 1 to 3;

Q is a bond, O or S; or

Q is $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

W is aryl or heterocyclyl;

X_2 is $-\text{C}(\text{R}_9)_2-$, O, S or $-\text{NH}-$ in which

R_9 is hydrogen or methyl;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

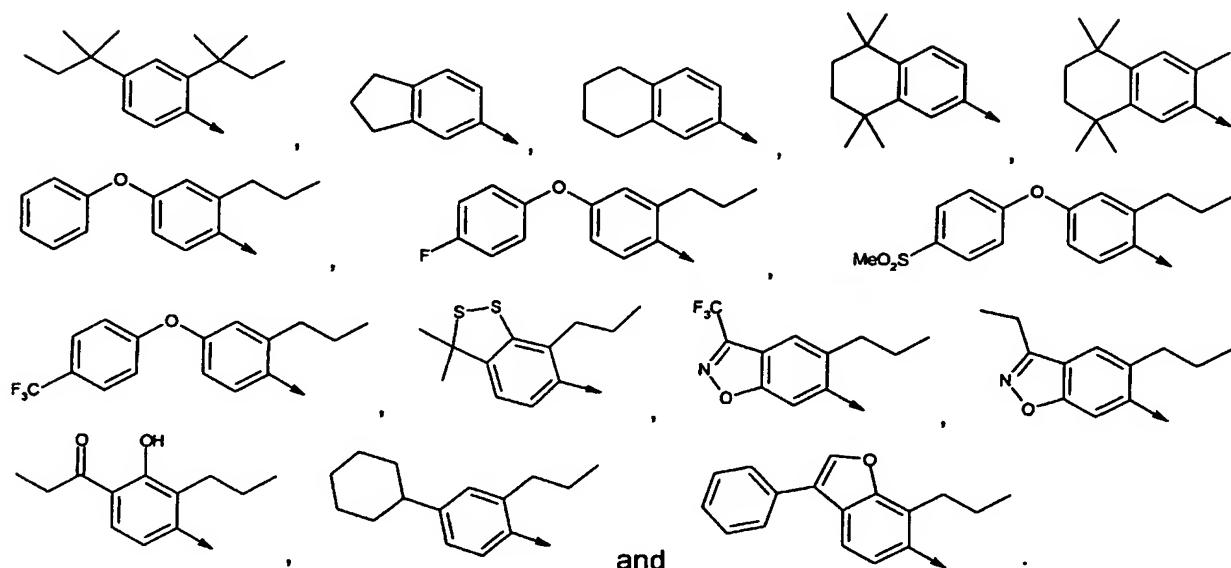
8. A compound according to claim 7, wherein

Z is O or S;

p is an integer of 2 or 3;

Q is O or S;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

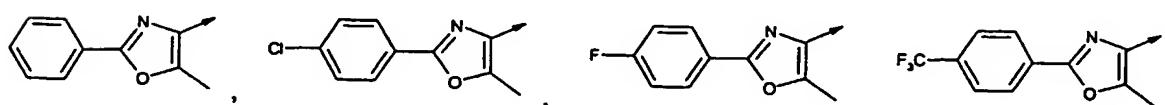
9. A compound according to claim 7, wherein

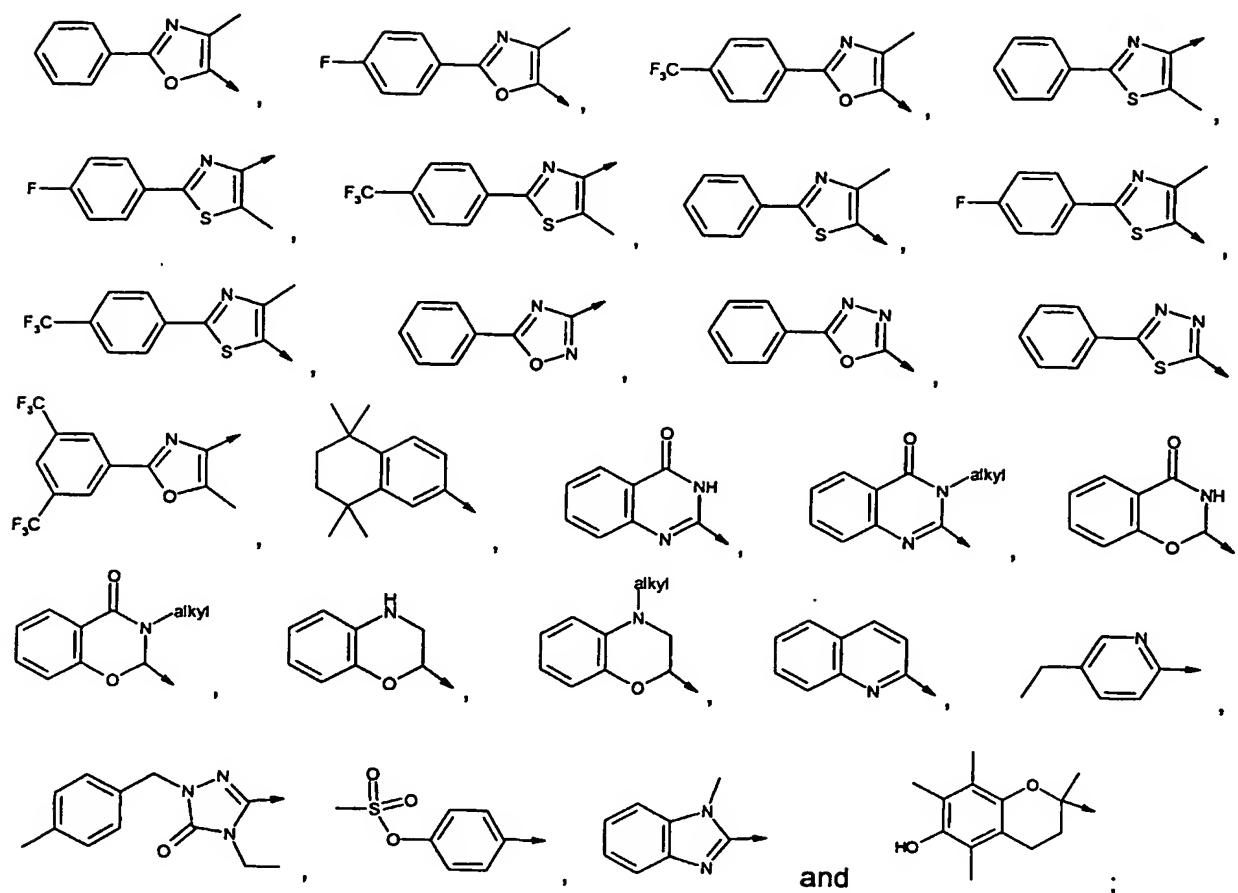
Z is bond, O or S;

p is an integer of 1 or 2;

Q is a bond;

W is selected from the group consisting of:





or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

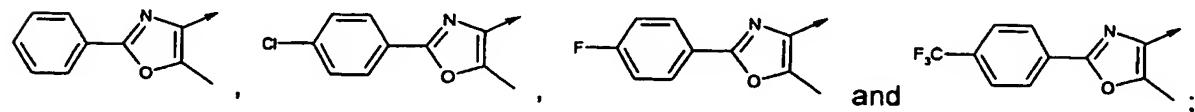
10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein

Z is O;

p is 1;

X₂ is -C(R₉)₂- in which R₉ is methyl;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein the asymmetric center in radical L is in the (R) configuration; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

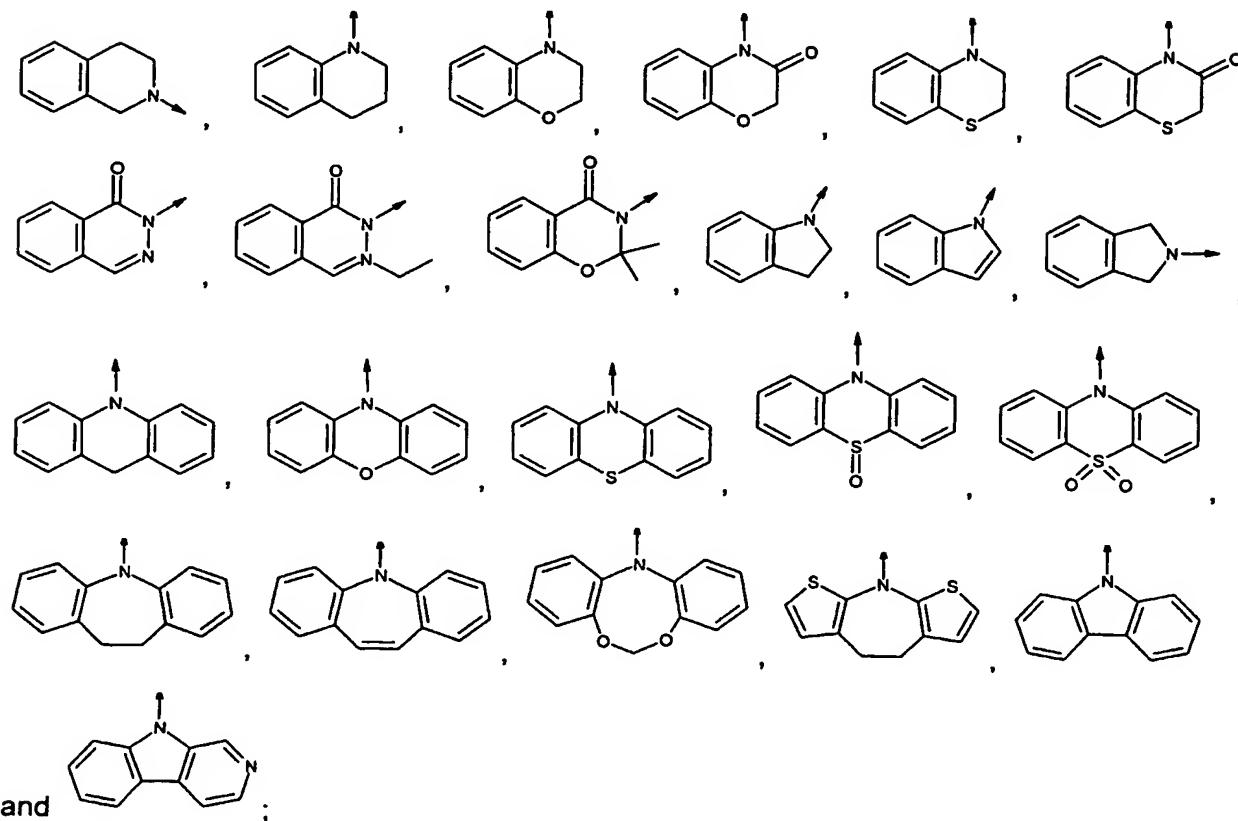
12. A compound according to claim 7, wherein

Z is O or S;

p is 2;

Q is a bond;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound according to claim 7, wherein

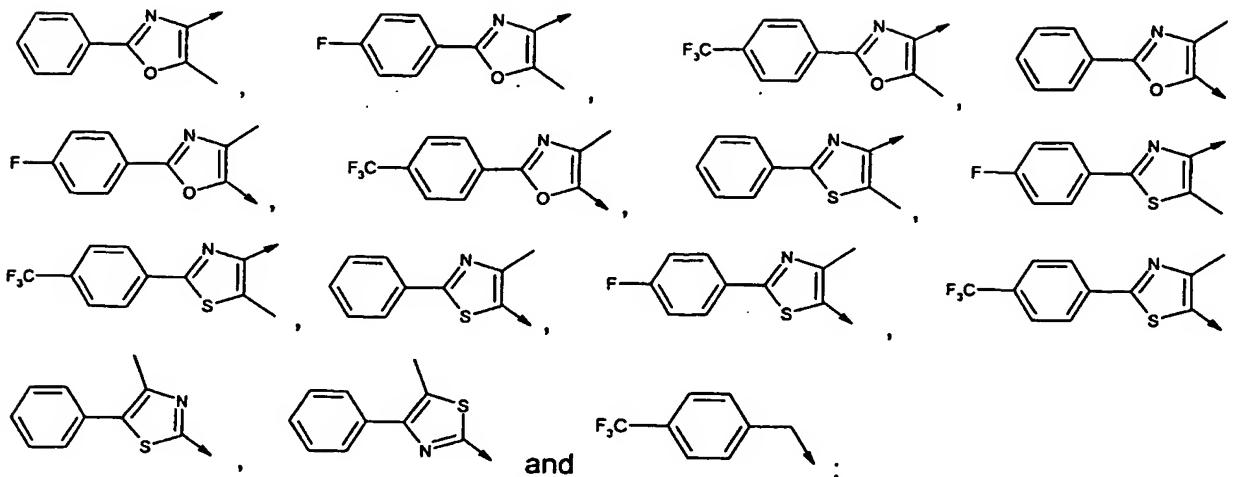
Z is a bond;

p is 1;

Q is $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

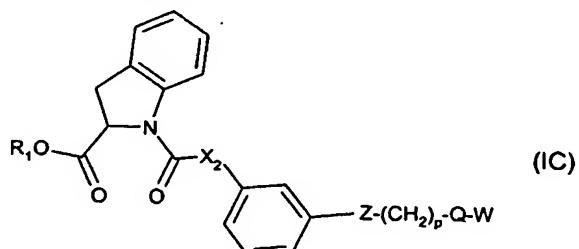
W is selected from the group consisting of:



and $\text{F}_3\text{C}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CH}_2-$;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A compound according to claim 4 of the formula



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl;

Z is a bond, O or S;

p is an integer from 1 to 3;

Q is a bond, O or S; or

Q is $-\text{NR}_7\text{C}(\text{O})-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

W is aryl or heterocyclil;

X_2 is $-\text{C}(\text{R}_9)_2-$, O, S or $-\text{NH}-$ in which

R_9 is hydrogen or methyl;

or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

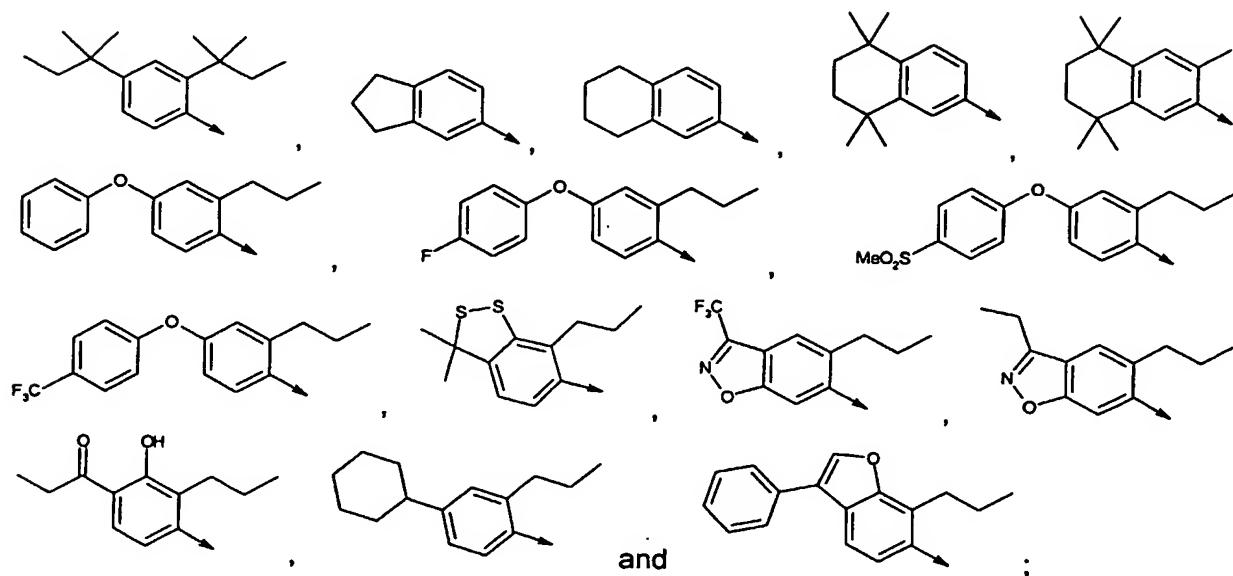
15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein

Z is O or S;

P is an integer of 2 or 3;

Q is O or S;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. A compound according to claim 14, wherein

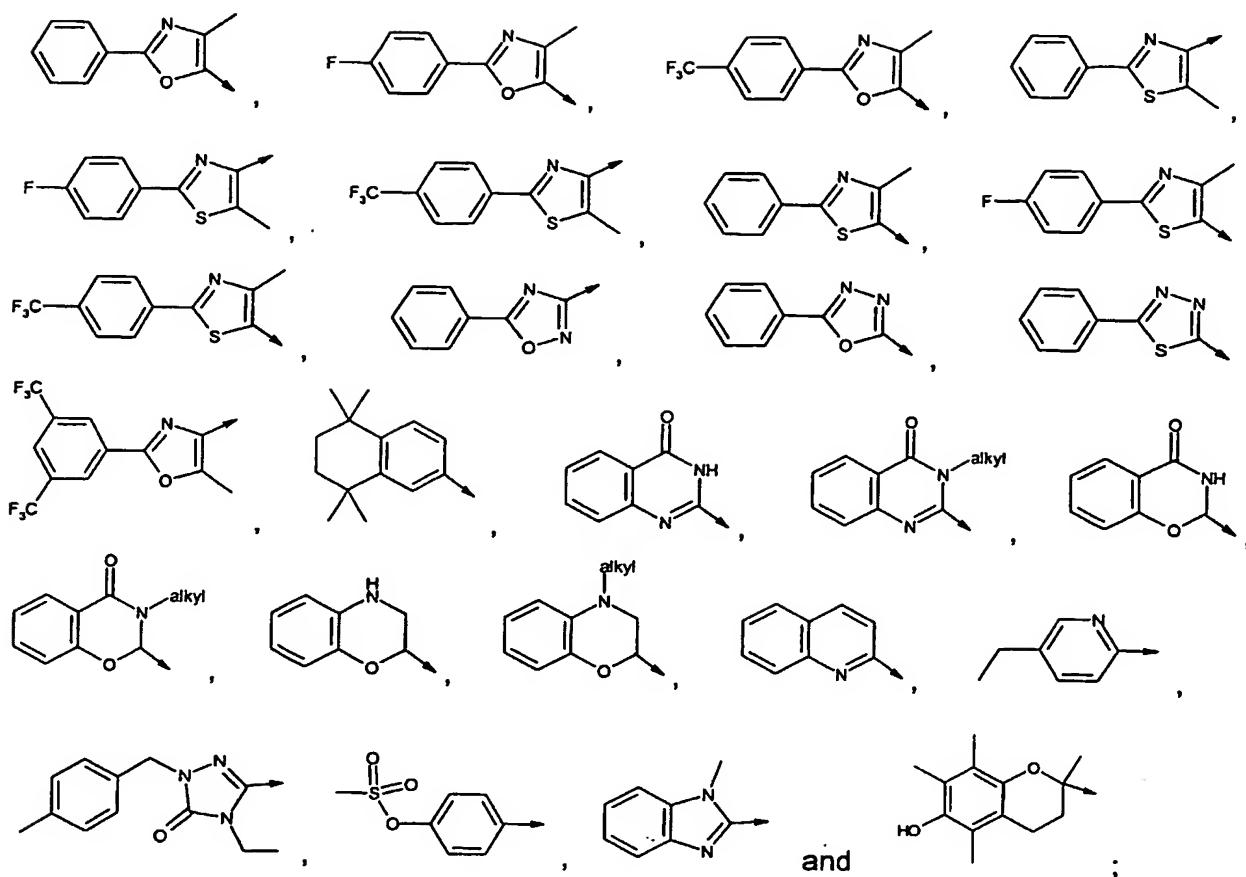
Z is bond, O or S;

p is an integer of 1 or 2;

Q is a bond;

W is selected from the group consisting of:





or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

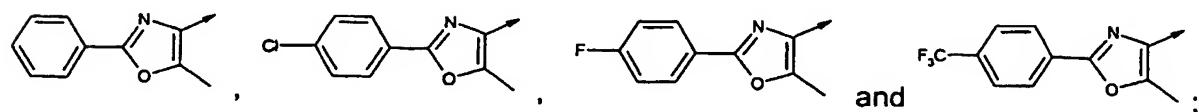
17. A compound according to claim 16, wherein

Z is O;

p is 1;

X₂ is -C(R₉)₂- in which R₉ is methyl;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A compound according to claim 17, wherein the asymmetric center in radical L is in the (R) configuration; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

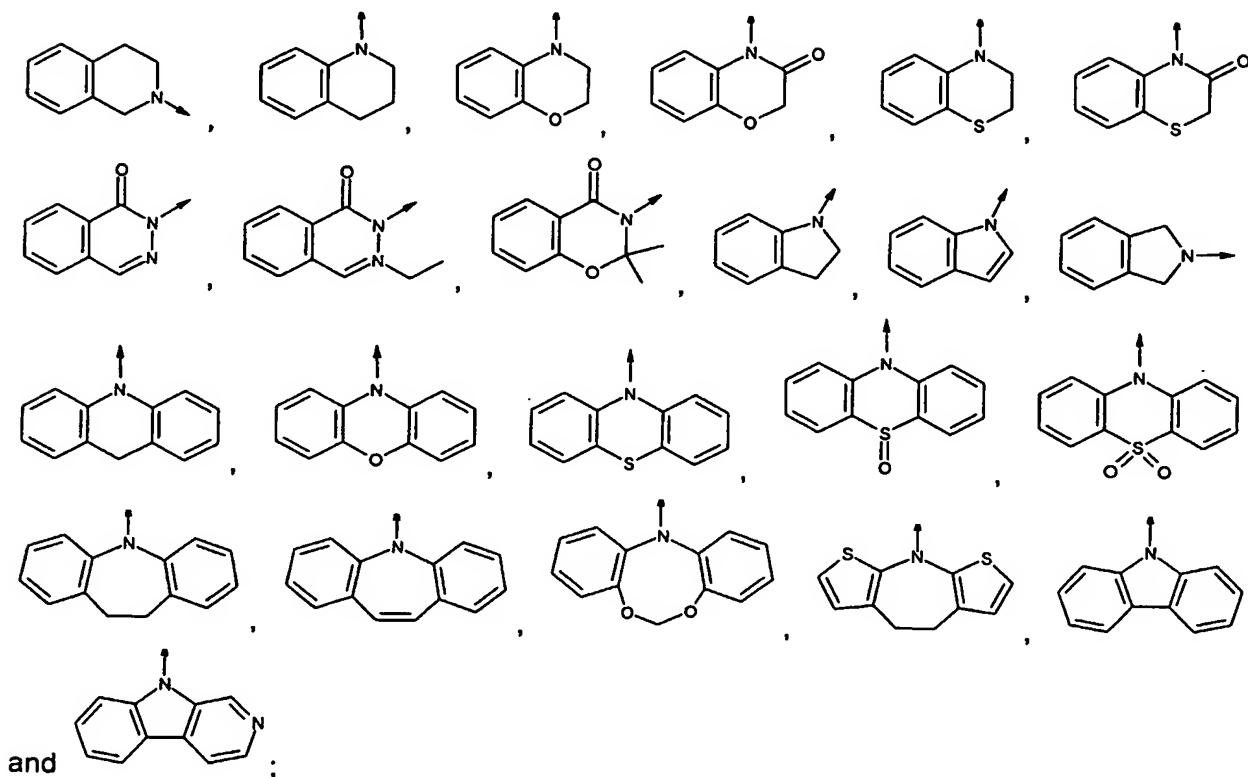
19. A compound according to claim 14, wherein

Z is O or S;

p is 2;

Q is a bond;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. A compound according to claim 14, wherein

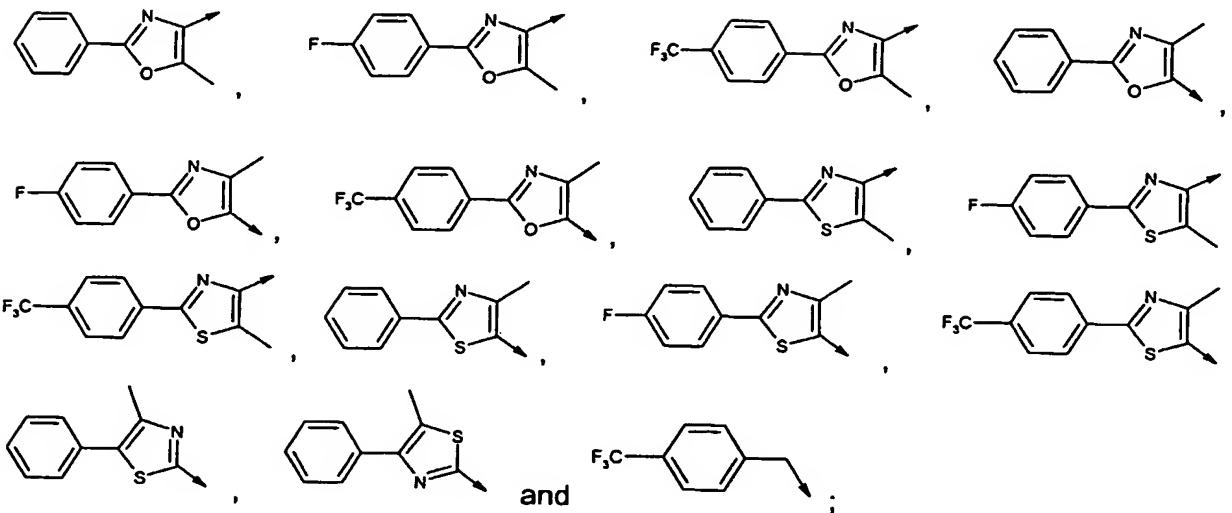
Z is a bond;

p is 1;

Q is $-NR_7C(O)-$ in which

R_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

W is selected from the group consisting of:



or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from:

- (R)-1-{2-[3-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-[3-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenylsulfanylcarbonyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-Pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylic acid-1-[3-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]ester;
- (R)-1-{2-Methyl-2-[3-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-propionyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-{2-[4-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-{2-[4-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Carbamoylphenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Cyano-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy] phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;

- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Chloro-3-fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-yl-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-{2-Methyl-2-[4-({methyl-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetyl]-amino}-methyl)-phenyl]-propionyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-4-methoxy-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-{2-Methyl-2-[3-(5-methyl-2-p-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-propionyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-[2-(4-{2-[2-(4-Trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetylamino]-ethyl}-phenyl)-acetyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-Methyl-2-{3-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-acetyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-[2-(3-{{(4-Methyl-5-phenyl-thiazole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-methyl}-phenyl)-acetyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-[2-Methyl-2-(3-{{(4-methyl-2-phenyl-thiazole-5-carbonyl)-amino]-methyl}-phenyl)-propionyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-[2-(3-{{(4-Methyl-2-phenyl-thiazole-5-carbonyl)-amino]-methyl}-phenyl)-acetyl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-{2-[3-(1-Benzyl-4-ethyl-5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1H-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-acetyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (R)-1-(2-{3-[5-Methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-acetyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
- (S)-1-{2-[3-(5-Methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;

(R)-1-{2-[3-(4-Methyl-benzyloxy)-phenyl]-acetyl}-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-{2-Methyl-2-[3-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-propionyl}-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Carbamoyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Chloro-3-fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Cyano-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-4-methoxy-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-{2-Methyl-2-[3-(5-methyl-2-p-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-propionyl}-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-Methyl-2-{3-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid; and
(R)-1-(2-{3-[2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methyl-propionyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid;
or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. A method for the activation of Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPARs) which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

23. A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by PPARs which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

24. The method according to claim 23, which method comprises administering said compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of insulin, insulin derivative or mimetic; insulin secretagogue; insulinotropic sulfonylurea receptor ligand; insulin sensitizer; biguanide; alpha-glucosidase inhibitors; GLP-1, GLP-1 analog or mimetic; DPPIV

inhibitor; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor; squalene synthase inhibitor; FXR or LXR ligand; cholestyramine; fibrates; nicotinic acid or aspirin.

25. A method for the treatment of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Syndrome-X, and type-1 and type-2 diabetes which method comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.
26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.
27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of insulin, insulin derivative or mimetic; insulin secretagogue; insulinotropic sulfonylurea receptor ligand; insulin sensitizer; biguanide; alpha-glucosidase inhibitors; GLP-1, GLP-1 analog or mimetic; DPPIV inhibitor; HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor; squalene synthase inhibitor; FXR or LXR ligand; cholestyramine; fibrates; nicotinic acid; or aspirin.
28. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 or 27, for the treatment of dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Syndrome-X, and type-1 and type-2 diabetes.
29. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 or 27, for use as medicament.
30. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 or 27, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of conditions associated with PPAR activity.
31. Use of a compound according to claim 1, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of conditions associated with PPAR activity.

32. Use according to claim 30 or 31, wherein the condition associated with PPAR activity is selected from dyslipidemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia, atherosclerosis, hypertriglyceridemia, heart failure, myocardial infarction, vascular diseases, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, obesity, inflammation, arthritis, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, skin disorders, respiratory diseases, ophthalmic disorders, inflammatory bowel diseases, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Syndrome-X, and type-1 and type-2 diabetes.

33. A compound according to claim 1, for use as a medicament.